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Headquarters Honors Martin Luther King, Jr.

FNS employees crowded a conference room at headquarters January 11 for the commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Opening the program, former Associate Administrator Sonia Crow said, "Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his life in the quest for peace, harmony, and togetherness."



Lavonia Perryman Fairfax (at microphone) appeared as guest speaker in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The Black Emphasis Program Planning Committee who organized the event are (left to right) Darlene Bryant, MA; Floyd Wheeler, MA; Brenda Bryant, OP; Gloria McColl, MA; Floyd Miles, AE; Anneva Hackley, FM; Charlene Simmons, FS; Bernice Cockrell, MA.

Crow then introduced the guest speaker, Lavonia Perryman Fairfax, who is a marketing and communications specialist with a national firm called Pazzaz Communications based in Washington, DC. A dynamic and witty speaker, Fairfax said her involvement in civil rights, cultural, and political activities have led her to believe that we all have "a

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USDA Adopts Chicago Agricultural High School

MWRO Administrator Monroe Woods and the Chicago public schools recently announced USDA's participation as an Adopt-A-School sponsor of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. The "adoption" charter was signed January 25 at a ceremony at the Agricultural High School by Woods, school principal Barbara Valerious, and Adopt-A-School program manager Al Peterson.



Attending the Adopt-A-School ceremony were (left to right) Aggie Thompson, AMS; Lance Sanders, Ag High School Future Farmers of America president; Al Peterson, Chicago city schools Adopt-A-School manager; Jim Kalkofen, AMS; Dr. Barbara Valerious, Ag High School principal; Tom Pate, MWRO; Kerry Bryan, APHIS; Russ Circo, MWRO; Monroe Woods, MWRO; Thomas Marks, AMS; Alice Britton, Ag School Parent, Teacher, Student Association president.

One of only two agriculture-oriented high schools in the U.S., the school is also one of several "magnet" schools in

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(King Continued)

mission" in our lives and that hers is "to share information, to make a difference in someone's life."

Fairfax said King captured her through "justice, peace, and love," and added, "that's probably how he captured all of you. He was a man that would say, 'I have a dream,' and his dream was yours and my dream."

Fairfax has been involved in many well-known projects, such as the Black Family Reunion, Hands Across America, the 1983 March on Washington, and America's Black Forum in Washington. Her awards include the Most Admired Woman in Washington, DC (in both 1985 and 1986), the Martin Luther King Citizen Award, and also the Media Woman of the Year for Detroit (1964).

Fairfax has been involved in the civil rights movement since the early 1960's. She met King for the first time as a college student in 1964 and marched with him in one of the early civil rights marches. In 1965, she met Jesse Jackson while working as a volunteer in a concert called "Save the Children" in Detroit. She also participated in a march on Washington (1983) that was modeled after King's famous march in 1963.

-Story by Lillyvette Montalvo
Photo by Levi Thompson
Public Information Staff

WRO Holds Conference on Infant Formula Rebate/Conversions

Fifteen representatives from WRO's WIC state agencies met in San Francisco on January 25 and 26 to discuss food cost containment systems.

Ron Rizzo, WIC food program specialist, said the workshop helped clarify the effects of the "Burdick amendment," which requires all WIC state agencies to examine the feasibility of implementing a system for cutting food costs.

The conference focused on infant formula rebates, which is the most popular form of cost containment, and the conversion of food monies to administration. Rizzo said there has been a good deal of confusion on these issues, but "the workshop cleared things up a bit."



Ron Rizzo, WRO food program specialist for WIC, explains annual food grant expenditures during the WIC workshop.

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(School Continued)

the Chicago public school system. Magnet schools--focused on a specific area of study--draw students from all across the city, and competition for entry is keen. Although FNS will be the lead USDA agency coordinating the Ag school partnership, other Chicago-area USDA agencies will be actively involved.

As an Adopt-A-School sponsor, USDA will offer its resources to introduce students to career opportunities in agriculture through activities such as field trips, class presentations, teacher orientations, job counseling, and technical assistance.

-Story and photo by Lawrence Rudmann
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

Midwest Food Stamp Chief Retires

Arthur Kotowski, MWRO Food Stamp Program Coupon Use and Redemption Section chief, retired December 31 after more than 31 years of Federal service. Kotowski had been with FNS and its predecessor agencies since 1961.

He began his career with FNS as a food program specialist in the Detroit Field Office, when the city of Detroit served as a pilot project area for the Food Stamp Program in 1961. Kotowski became officer in charge in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1965; then served as district manager for the state of Ohio until 1978, when he became MWRO director for the Supplemental Food Programs. Kotowski took over as Food Stamp Program section chief in 1981. His major contribution to the agency has been to recognize, attract, and hire quality staff.



-Story and photo by Mary Jane Getlinger
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

Puerto Rico WIC Staff Learns the ABC's of APD's



MARO Supplemental Food Programs unit leader Diana Torrice (left) answers a question raised by Aida Gonzalez de Gregory, executive director of the Puerto Rico WIC program (seated center), on a vendor problem.

Several of the Puerto Rico WIC staff, including Marcelino Collazo and Carmen La Salle (standing) and Jose Lopez of the Puerto Rico health department's legal office (right), recently received week-long training at MARO on a range of corrective action plan issues.

In a concurrent meeting, Carol Savage, MARO food program specialist, provided training on developing advance planning documents and requests for bids to establish a new WIC computer system. Angel Morales and Gaby Matos of the Caribbean Area Office also helped the Puerto Rico WIC staff carry out the technical assistance.

MARO's Supplemental Food Programs staff feels the in-house training will resolve some long-standing issues and reduce operational deficiencies.

-Story and photo by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

(Conference Continued)

Areas of particular concern to the state agencies included the effect of rebates on the 95 percent annual food grant expenditure standard, carry-forward authority, current and future conversion calculations, and reporting requirements.

Four state agencies in WRO have already implemented a rebate system. The most successful and most recent is California, which now saves \$1.32 per can of infant formula. Rizzo said the money obtained from rebates enables states to bring new WIC clients into the program and, by increasing local WIC agency staff, provides better client services. If rebate savings are fully used, Rizzo said, California's WIC program will expand by close to 150,000 clients per month, an increase of nearly 50 percent.

-Story and photos by Kristen Bole
WRO Public Affairs Staff

reservation before the changeover was accomplished. Sanders dealt with a truck fire, a threat by the Small Business Administration to foreclose on the warehouse, a fire in a nearby town that stalled sinking a power pole for reservation cooling equipment, and even Hurricane Gilbert. When Gilbert moved inland, its torrential rains softened the ground around the warehouse, miring a truck that was to move commodities into storage. The tribe quickly negotiated to obtain gravel for the parking lot and delivery points.



New Indian Tribal Organization Begins FDPIR Operation

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe has become the 12th Mountain Plains reservation to operate the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). The program was formerly operated by South Dakota's Department of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Acquiring state agency status took the tribe more than a year and a half. A capability determination was made last spring, but the tribe had to acquire a larger warehouse and distribution facility. Refurbishing the warehouse; installing security fencing, a new heater, a freezer area, and an alarm system; getting budget and plan approval; and complying with program regulations all took time and effort on the part of tribal and MPRO staff.

Pierre Officer in Charge Hugh Sanders put in long hours, encountered numerous obstacles, and made many trips to the

Regional Administrator David Alspach, along with Sanders, Food Distribution Program Section Chief Evie Ashmore, and food program specialist Michael Murphy, represented FNS at the dedication ceremony. They were joined by Rosebud Tribal Chairman Alex Lunderman, FDPIR Director Dallas Walking Eagle, warehouse supervisor Lee Six Toes, and other tribal staff. A medicine man offered a dedication prayer in Lakota (Sioux), invoking ancestral pride in providing food and blessing the building. Both the Rosebud Sioux and American flags were raised.

Rosebud tribal officers intend to make the Food Distribution Program site a good example of what a tribal facility can look like, more like a neighborhood store than a bleak warehouse.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

SERO Clerical Staff Receives Recognition

Program secretaries in the Atlanta regional office decided it was time to do more than just say "thanks" to the clerical staff who constantly come to their aid. So, they treated all clerical staff to a lavish luncheon buffet.

"We wanted to show our appreciation to the program clerks for all the support they give us every day," said Helen Kuykendall, secretary to Southeast Regional Administrator Virgil Conrad.

Rachel Bishop, Special Nutrition Programs secretary, agreed. "I'd be absolutely overwhelmed with work if it weren't for our clerical staff," she said. Bishop, Kuykendall, and other FNS secretaries each made their best desserts and side dishes to complement the turkey, ham, and roast beef sandwiches.



Conrad and his deputy, Arvid Dopson, also stopped in to add their thanks on behalf of the regional office for everything the clerical staff does to keep work flowing smoothly. In addition to their own work assignments, clerks often fill in for the program secretaries when needed.

-Story by Catherine Rogers
Photo by Connie Crunkleton
SERO Public Affairs Staff

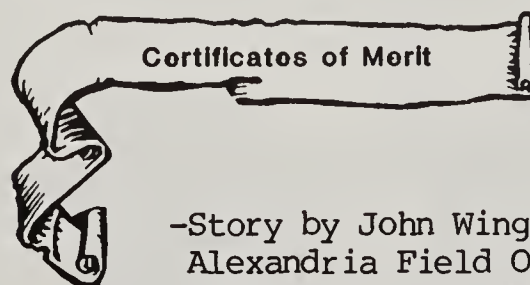
Field Office Employees are Honored



Pictured (left to right) are Rossie Wills, food program specialist; John Wingo, officer in charge; Associate Administrator Sonia Crow; William Crim, food program specialist; and Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Chris Martin.

Associate Administrator Sonia Crow visited the Alexandria, Virginia, Field Office to take part in an awards presentation by Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Chris Martin.

Martin presented Rossie Wills and William Crim with certificates of merit for their performance in carrying out field office assignments. Crow congratulated the field representatives and expressed her appreciation for the work that goes on in field offices.



-Story by John Wingo
Alexandria Field Office
Photo by Levi Thompson
Public Information Staff

WRO Holds Secretarial Training

WRO field office secretaries gathered in San Francisco for 3 days of training on Time Trax (the automated time and attendance reporting system), WordPerfect word processing, and general field office procedures.

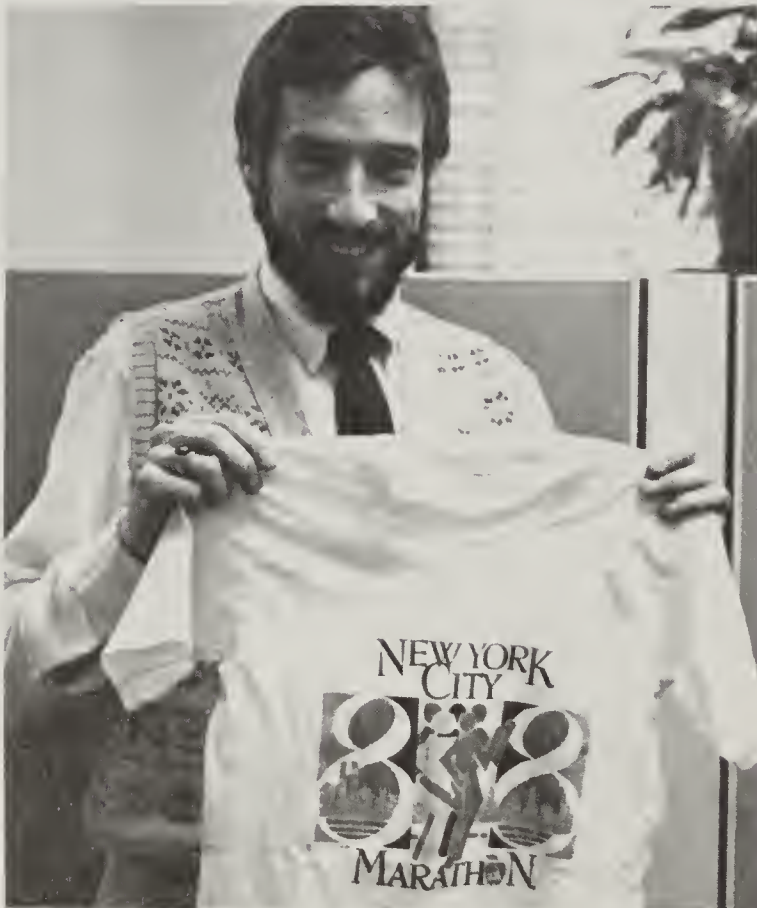
Field operations secretary Lillian Lum conducted the training on Time Trax and WordPerfect. This was the group's first exposure to both systems. Time Trax is new to WRO and its field offices, and WordPerfect is just being introduced in the field offices which, until now, have been using WordStar.

Standing at left is WRO Field Operations Director Karen Howard, who arranged the training meeting and conducted the sessions on field office procedures. Standing at front center, wearing glasses, is Lillian Lum, who conducted the sessions on Time Trax and WordPerfect.



-Story and photo by Tino Serrano
WRO Public Affairs Staff

Adkins Runs in NYC Marathon



SERO's David Adkins went all the way to the Big Apple to participate in one of the Nation's best known "fun runs," the New York City Marathon.

"I really enjoyed it," Adkins said. "I saw a lot of the city during the marathon and, although I didn't do as well as I would have liked, it was fun."

Adkins received an official New York City Marathon cap, shorts, and T-shirt, and a medal for finishing the race. He plans to run again next year.

-Story by Catherine Rogers
Photo by Steve Watson
SERO Public Affairs Staff



Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of December with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Dec. 1987</u>	<u>Nov. 1988</u>	<u>Dec. 1988</u>	<u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>				
People participating (mil.)	18.5	18.5	18.7	
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	930.1	957.7	972.5	
Average bonus per person	\$ 50.31	\$ 51.87	\$ 52.11	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,030.6	1,062.0	1,076.9	
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	89.8	NA	NA	
Children participating (mil.)	24.4	24.6	24.6	
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.6	11.5	11.5	
Percentage of lunches served free	40.0	40.2	39.9	
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price.	6.7	6.6	6.8	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	292.6	368.5	288.9	
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	38.7	NA	NA	
Children participating (mil.)	3.6	3.8	3.8	
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	87.6	86.7	86.7	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	39.4	51.1	41.1	
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>				
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	33.7	38.7	35.0	
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	27.7	31.3	30.8	
Percentage of all meals served free	78.6	78.9	78.9	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	46.9	55.2	52.1	
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>				
People participating (mil.)	3.4	3.9	3.9	
Food cost (\$ mil.)	114.7	125.9	126.2	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	147.3	153.6	154.7	
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>				
People participating (thous.)	210.3	219.0	216.0	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.8	3.9	4.2	
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>				
Number of projects in operation	107	108	108	
People participating (thous.)	137.3	134.8	137.2	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.3	4.6	4.6	
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>				
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	66.1	15.0	14.2	

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of February 24, 1989.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Regional Adm.	(A)	ES-120		04-17-89	89-57	WRO
o Management Analyst	(A)	GS-343	11/12	03-21-89	89-74	IRMD
o Home Economist	(HNIS)	GS-493	11/12	03-07-89	89-H75	HNIS
o Computer Program Analyst	(G)	GS-334	11	03-20-89	89-76	IRMD
o Computer Systems Programmer	(A)	GS-334	11/12	03-27-89	89-77	IRMD
o Personnel Staffing Specialist	(A)	GS-212	7/9/11	03-27-89	89-78	PED
o Management Assistant	(FNS-HQ)	GS-344	6	03-14-89	89-79	OAE
o Food Program Aid	(FNS-HQ)	GS-102	5	03-01-89	89-80	SFPD

Office Location

PED - Personnel Division
 OAE - Office of Analysis and
 Evaluation
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information
 Service
 IRMD - Information Resources
 Management Division
 SFPD - Supplemental Food Programs
 Division
 WRO - Western Regional Office

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (HNIS) - Human Nutrition Information
 Service
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service
 (Headquarters)

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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 Information Staff, 3101 Park Center
 Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302,
 telephone 756-3000.

Exercise Classes to Begin at POC

Another session of in-house exercise
 classes is about to begin. Two half-
 hour classes will be held on Tuesdays
 and Thursdays at 11:30 and noon. They
 are designed to tone muscles without
 excessive perspiration, since we have no
 shower facilities. The classes are
 taught by instructors from the Wellness
 Center at Alexandria Hospital. The
 session will begin March 21 and will
 last for 10 weeks. The cost is \$30
 (\$1.50 per class) and is due prior to
 the beginning of the session. Anyone
 interested in participating should
 contact Rosalyn "Ro" Tugg in Room 803 or
 call 756-3060 by March 17. All payments
 should be made in cash, please.